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DEAF AND DUMB.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE KENTUCKY INSTITUTION

FOR THE

Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons.

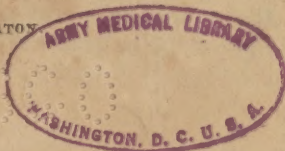
FEBRUARY 20, 1826.

Read, and referred to the Committee of the Whole House, to which is referred the bill for the benefit of the said Institution.

WASHINGTON:

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1826



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MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Congress of the United States:

The Trustees of the Kentucky Institution for the Deaf and Dumb would respectfully represent: That their Institution was incorporated by the Legislature of Kentucky, in 1822; that, in the Spring following, it was put into operation upon funds granted by the State, as ample as the then state of its funds would permit; that, at the session of 1824, the charter was so amended as to invite the States surrounding Kentucky, and elsewhere, to send their pupils to our Institution for instruction, upon the same terms as the pupils of our own State. We believe that all, or most of the States, in the valley of the Mississippi, are, at this time, looking to the Kentucky Institution for instruction of their deaf and dumb. Owing to the great difficulty attending the establishment and maintenance of such institutions, and obtaining qualified instructors, ours is the only one west of the Alleghany Mountains. Our Institution being situated in the centre of the western section of the Union, affords a convenient site to supply the demands for instruction of the kind, for that and the southwestern section. Congress has, heretofore, as we believe, expressed its sense of the propriety of encouragement by the General Government to the cause of education, by the provisions in the laws regulating the sales of the public lands, reserving a certain portion for that purpose. We also conceive, that the encouragement of this species of education is entitled to the consideration of the General Government, and is recognized by the liberal grant made to the American Asylum located in the Northeastern section of the Union. Experience has, we conceive, convinced all, or most of those conversant with institutions of the kind, that it requires extent of territory, more than probably any one State contains, to supply, for any long period of time, the necessary number of pupils to keep such an institution in successful operation, many persons of that description now in existence being too old to be advantageously and successfully instructed, and, consequently, the young of that class of our species, must be looked to to fill our institutions.

During the late session of the Legislature, a grant of three thousand dollars was given to our Institution to enable the Trustees to purchase a suitable site, and erect the necessary buildings thereon. In consequence of this grant, and funds obtained by donation, we have been enabled to purchase a very eligible one of ten acres, upon which are now erected comfortable buildings, but not as large as we could wish. We would further represent, that we have well qualified instructors for this branch of education, and would, therefore, respectfully, but earnestly, solicit the attention of the Hon.

Congress to our application for endowment, now before that honorable body. Any information that may be desired, we hope will be found in the accompanying papers.

D. E. COWAN,
B. H. PERKINS,
J. BARBOUR,
WM. MILLER,
E. M'DOWELL,
J. FISHER,
M. G. YUCE.

} Sup's
Comm'te.

Danville, Feb. 2, 1826.

*An Act to endow an Asylum for the Tuition of the Deaf and Dumb,
approved December 7, 1822.*

Whereas it is desirable to promote the education of that portion of the community who, by the mysterious dispensation of Providence, are born deaf and, of course, dumb, and, experience, in other countries, having evinced the practicability of reclaiming them to the rank of their species, by a judicious and well adapted course of education, it is represented that many of our philanthropic citizens would contribute to promote an object so benevolent and humane, if this Legislature would co-operate, by affording pecuniary aid, and designating a mode by which the gratuities devoted thereto, could be effectually applied; therefore,

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky,* That the Trustees, and their successors, of the Central College of Danville, shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to receive, by legacies, conveyances, or otherwise, lands, slaves, money, and other property, and the same to retain, use, and apply to the education of the deaf and dumb within this commonwealth, to any amount, the interest, profits, or proceeds of which, shall not exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars per annum.

The institution shall be located at Danville, in Mercer county, and supported by the donations and legacies of the charitable, by such aid as the legislature may be pleased to afford, and by the money to be received for the education of children whose parents, guardians, or friends, are of ability to pay.

The trustees of the Danville College, and their successors in office, shall have power to appoint a teacher or teachers, president, treasurer, and all other officers that they may think necessary, and remove any of them at pleasure, and make such by-laws as they may think necessary for the interest of said asylum.

There shall also be a committee of twelve ladies, selected by the trustees at their first meeting, and their vacancies filled from time to time, as they may happen from death, removal, or resignation, to aid in the management of the asylum, under such provisions as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the by-laws.

The funds of the institution shall be under the management of the trustees, subject, however, to such restrictions as shall accompany the grant of aid by the legislature; and it shall be the duty of the trustees for the time being, to present to the Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, annually, within the first week of their session, a statement of the funds and expenses of the institution, and of the number of children received and educated therein, during the year immediately preceding, and of the parts of the State whence they have come, distinguishing between those who have been supported gratuitously, and others.

Indigent children, resident any where within the State, shall be received into the asylum, maintained and educated gratuitously, so far as the funds of the institution will admit: *Provided*, That where more children shall be offered for the benefit of this institution, than can be received at any one time, the trustees shall so apportion their number among the several counties of this commonwealth, according to their representation, when application shall be made, that every county may equally receive the benefits of the same.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That, in order to aid the funds of the said asylum, the Governor is hereby authorized and required to draw his warrant on the auditor of public accounts, in favor of the trustees of this asylum, for the sum of three thousand dollars, immediately; and, moreover, shall draw his warrant on the auditor, in favor of said trustees, for the further sum of one hundred dollars for every indigent pupil taught in said asylum, which shall authorize the auditor to draw a warrant on the treasurer for the amount directed in the Governor's warrant, which shall be paid out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated by law, and charged to the school fund: *Provided*, That no one scholar shall be taught at the expense of the State more than three years; and, provided also, that the sum so to be drawn from the treasury, for such tuition, shall, in no one year, exceed the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars.

KENTUCKY INSTITUTION FOR THE TUITION OF THE }
DEAF AND DUMB, *Danville, Nov. 3d, 1823.* }

In obedience to "An act to endow an Asylum for the tuition of the Deaf and Dumb," the Trustees respectfully report:

Institutions of the kind created by the Legislature, being of modern date in the world, and there being none nearer than the Atlantic cities, the board was well aware that they were not in possession of the requisite information, to enable them at once to commence the duties incident to their appointment. They, therefore, met at an early day after the adjournment of the General Assembly, and adopted such measures as seemed most likely, and best calculated, to afford the desired information, and, at as early a day as practicable, to put the institution into operation. A correspondence was accordingly opened

with all the institutions of the kind in the United States, the object of which was, to obtain information of the best mode of conducting and managing them. Circulars were addressed to the different members of the General Assembly, requesting information of the number of deaf and dumb persons in their several counties; their age, sex, and condition in life, and the probable number that would be sent to the institution for instruction. A statement, herewith submitted, will show the information obtained upon the subject. Knowing that the number of persons acquainted with the proper method of instructing mutes, was very limited, the Board engaged a Mr. David C. Irvin, as instructor; deeming him capable of giving the instruction necessary, in the first few months, until time could be had to procure a teacher from one of the Eastern institutions, in every respect competent to the task. They regret to be obliged to state, that, after some weeks' trial of Mr. Irvin, circumstances occurred which made it the duty of the Trustees forthwith to discharge him.

From that time until the 6th ultimo, the pupils received instruction from the Rev. John R. Kerr, and although he was not experienced in teaching mutes, yet the progress of the pupils exceeded our most sanguine expectations. Since that time, Mr. De Witt Clinton Mitchell, from the New York Asylum, a gentleman experienced in the art, has filled the office of principal teacher. Among the most important objects to be attained in the establishment of an institution for the Deaf and Dumb, is the procurement of persons of unexceptionable character and qualifications, to fill the stations of superintendent and matron. In this part of their duty, the Board are happy to have it in their power to say, they have succeeded to their entire satisfaction, by the acceptance of the Rev. John R. Kerr, and his lady, of those stations. Mr. Kerr also assists in giving instruction in school. We therefore think, that the humane and benevolent views of the Legislature, which gave birth to the institution, are now realized, in its successful operation.

The novelty of the experiment to communicate useful knowledge to persons deaf and dumb, and thereby restore them to their proper rank in the scale of beings, has, by many persons in the country, been considered a doubtful one, and by some believed impracticable. But facts remove all doubts and disbelief upon the subject. Many persons have visited the institution, and no person has left it doubting, nor, is it believed, without being interested for its prosperity.

So far as the Board are in possession of information, this institution has met with the universal approbation of those who understand its nature. It has attracted the attention of persons out of our own State, as several applications to admit pupils, have been made from the States of Ohio, Tennessee, and Georgia.

It is expected that, in the course of the next six months, the number of pupils will be much increased. The statements herewith submitted, will exhibit the funds of the institution, and the several expenditures, and on what account; also, a list of the pupils, &c. We would remark, that the funds, placed at the disposal of the Board, did

not, in their opinion, warrant the commencement of the buildings necessary for such an institution; and buildings, answering the purpose for some time to come, have been taken on rent. It is, however, believed, that the most suitable site for an Asylum, is not in the centre of a town, but somewhat retired from the bustle of business; and so soon as the Board find themselves sufficiently in funds, it is contemplated to acquire a lot of ground more spacious than can be obtained in the heart of a town, whereon to erect their buildings. In this, the Board have in view not only the health of the pupils, but hope, at some period, to have it in their power to employ a portion of their time, (and particularly of the indigent,) in acquiring a knowledge of such things as may enable them, when discharged from the institution, to procure a subsistence. We conceive the education of indigent pupils, who have learned to read and write, and who have not been taught any branch of industry, by which to obtain for themselves a support in life, as incomplete. Our means, at present, admit only of giving this kind of instruction to our female pupils, who are taught the use of the needle, housewifery, &c. We hope the period may not be distant, when, through the bounty of the Legislature of our country, and the donations of the charitable, we shall be enabled to carry this part of the plan into complete operation.

At this time, we respectfully suggest to the Legislature, that the sum now allowed by law, for the support of indigent pupils, is less than it can be furnished for, at the present prices of the means of subsistence. We would, therefore, respectfully solicit such an increase of the allowance as the Legislature may think proper. That the Legislature may be more minutely acquainted with the institution and its management, the trustees respectfully solicit a personal examination by a committee of each house of the General Assembly.

A copy of the rules adopted for the government of the institution, is herewith submitted, by which it will be seen that, to the trustees residing in town, has been committed the immediate care of superintending it, a sub-committee of whom are in the habit of making daily visits. The like is done by the committee of ladies appointed under our charter. The pupils are all in good health, and no instance is recollected of any having been sick, except slightly of prevailing epidemics. They are cheerful, well disposed to each other, and easily governed; and, as new ideas are unfolded to them, appear greatly delighted, and anxious to learn. They are much attached to the superintendent, matron, and teacher, and to those visitors who call frequently, and who appear interested for them.

The Board of Trustees owe their acknowledgments to the teachers of all the institutions for instructing the deaf and dumb, with whom they have corresponded, for their promptness in giving the desired information; but they feel under particular obligations to Dr. Samuel Akerly, Secretary of the New York institution, for the many services he has rendered them.

The statement of expenses incurred, accompanying this report, together with some estimate of the probable expenditures for the ensu-

ing year, will afford the best information we can give the Legislature on this subject. Should a committee be appointed, as we trust there will, it will be in our power to go more into detail. Before we conclude this report, we beg leave to express our earnest hope and expectation, that the same spirit of philanthropy which induced your predecessors to extend their beneficence to this unfortunate portion of our fellow creatures, will animate the present and each succeeding Legislature.

All which is respectfully submitted,

By order of the Board.

B. H. PERKINS,

D. G. COWAN,

JAMES BARBOUR,

WM. MILLER,

EPH'M. M'DOWELL,

JER'H. FISHER,

} Superintending
Committee.

Kentucky Institution for the Tuition of the Deaf and Dumb.

TRUSTEES.—John Boyle, Chairman; James Birney, Treasurer; William Owsley, Thomas Montgomery, Samuel M'Kee, James Barbour, Thomas Cleland, Samuel K. Nelson, David G. Cowan, Ephraim M'Dowell, Joseph M'Dowell, William Craig, Jeremiah Fisher, John Green, Edward Worthington, Robert B. M'Affee, Benjamin H. Perkins, William Miller, John S. Higgins—James Harlan, Secretary of the Board.

Officers.—Rev. John R. Kerr, superintendent; Frances Kerr, Matron; De Witt Clinton Mitchell, principal Teacher.

Physicians.—Joseph Weisiger and Albin G. Smith.

Committee of Superintendence.—Benjamin H. Perkins, James Barbour, Ephraim M'Dowell, David G. Cowan, William Miller, and Jeremiah Fisher.

Committee of Ladies.—Mrs. Clemens, Mrs. Youce, Mrs. Finley, Mrs. Rochester, Mrs. Whealan, Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. Akin, Mrs. Cocke, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Bell, and Mrs. Reed.

PUPILS.

| NAMES. | Age | Admitted. | Residence. | Remarks. |
|-------------------|-----|----------------|---------------|---|
| Jabez Gaddie, | 16 | 1823, April 10 | Green county. | An orphan and unable to pay for board or tuition. |
| Eveline Sherrill, | 12 | | do. | Do. do. |
| Lucy Barbee, | 24 | | do. | Pays all charges. |
| Rebecca Machen, | 27 | May 20 | Simpson co. | Do. |
| Wm. Morehead, | 13 | | Lincoln co. | Indigent and unable to pay. |
| Martha Railey, | 21 | June 12 | Woodford co. | Pays all charges. |
| Moses Lewellin, | 15 | July 1 | Shelby co. | Orphan, and indigent. |
| Edith Lewellin, | 13 | | do. | Do. do. |
| John Goggin, | 21 | July 9 | Madison co. | Pays all charges. |
| William Grissom, | 17 | | Adair co. | Do. |
| Barney M'Mahon, | 12 | July 23 | Jefferson co. | Entirely indigent. |
| John Withers, | 21 | Aug. 20 | Lincoln co. | Pays all charges. |
| John Hoke, | 25 | Oct. 27 | Jefferson co. | Do. |
| Thos. Hoagland, | 30 | Nov. 3 | Fayette co. | Do. |

Deaf and dumb persons supposed to be in the State, from 130 to 150, about one-third of whom are in indigent circumstances. The calculation in Europe, of the proportion of deaf and dumb to other persons, is one for 2,000 souls; in the United States, it is estimated lower.

RULES.

Resolved, That the members of the Board, resident in the town of Danville, be arranged into *Monthly Committees*, who shall each, successively, have the superintendence and charge of the Asylum. It shall be the duty of the Committees, to make all regulations needful and necessary for the good order of the Asylum, and make report to each stated meeting of the Board, and at such other times as they may deem necessary.

Resolved further, That the following rules be adopted for the government of the monthly committees, the ladies' committee, and superintendent, matron, and teachers:

I. That the mode of treatment of the pupils of this institution, and of their instruction, require lenity and kindness of an exemplary nature; and that corporal punishment ought never to be resorted to, but in extreme cases, and then only by the authority and consent of the monthly committee.

II. That every pupil who shall be admitted into this institution, shall be initiated under the direction of the monthly committee; and that no pupil shall be considered as regularly entered, until he or she shall have been, for a time not exceeding 20 days, in the institution, on trial; and shall also have given bond, with competent security, if required, for the payment of the tuition and expenses, according to the rules and regulations of this institution.

III. That the monthly committee shall superintend the school, and direct all that may be necessary for the comfort and advancement of the scholars, and the general prosperity and respectability of the institution. Respectable persons may be permitted to visit the Asylum, when introduced by a trustee, the superintendent, matron, or any member of the committee of ladies.

IV. That the monthly committee, shall, from time to time, according to the season, prescribe the hours of meeting and dismissal from school. When in school, and during the hours of instruction, the pupils are under the government of the teacher or teachers; at other times and places, the superintendent and matron are expected to have the charge and care of them.

V. If a scholar shall persist in playing truant, or his parents or guardians detain him from school without a proper excuse, the superintendent and teacher shall report the same to the monthly committee, who shall, thereupon, make such order as the case may require.

VI. No parent or guardian shall interfere with the government of a child in the school; but, in case of dissatisfaction, they may refer their complaints, in writing, to the monthly committee, who shall act thereon as the case may require.

VII. That, in all cases requiring further rules for the government of the institution, not hereby provided for, the monthly committee shall have power to act, subject to the supervision and determination of the Board, to be reported at the expiration of their term, with whatever relates to their transactions.

Kentucky Institution for the tuition of the Deaf and Dumb.

DEBIT.

| | |
|--|------------|
| January, 1823—To cash received from the treasury, 1823 | \$3,000 00 |
|--|------------|

CREDIT.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| April 11—By cash paid for board of D. C. Irvine, before the commencement of the school | 20 00 |
| May 22—Paid for same, after school commenced, | 5 00 |
| Paid D. C. Irvine, for services as teacher | 40 00 |
| Jan. 11—Cash paid for books, stationery, &c. purchased at New York | 146 55 |
| Paid for carriage of do. | 9 00 |
| Paid for two large desks, sundry benches, and one large black board, painting, &c. | 23 50 |
| Paid for stationery, &c. for indigent pupils | 6 00 |
| Paid for printer's bill | 8 00 |
| Paid for postage | 23 58 |
| Paid for Mr. Mitchell's expenses from New York to Danville, as per contract | 128 00 |
| Mr. Mitchell's salary up to 3d Nov. 1823 | 76 92 |
| House rent up to 3d November | 146 69 |
| Amount of Mr. Kerr's account for boarding indigent pupils, to 3d November | 250 75 |
| Amount of his salary, up to 3d November | 173 74 |
| Amount of his account for wood furnished school room | 7 50 |
| | <hr/> 1,065 23 |
| Balance on hand | \$1,934 77 |
| Tuition fees due from pupils who pay, up to 3d November, 1823 | 90 98 |
| | <hr/> |
| Amount on hand | \$2,025 70 |

In addition to the above, a list is herewith presented, exhibiting, as far as the Board know with certainty, the donations made to the Institution, amounting to \$970. The Board have been informed, that other donations have been subscribed to the Institution; but the amount is not known.

"We, severally, promise to pay to the Trustees of the Asylum for the tuition of the Deaf and Dumb, the sums annexed to our respective names; to be paid in three annual payments, from 1st January, 1823."

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------------|----|
| John Green, | 100 | William Miller | 50 |
| James Birney, | 100 | Charles Henderson, | 50 |
| Ephraim M. Dowell, | 100 | Richard D. Crutchfield, | 30 |
| David G. Cowan, | 50 | Thomas Gray, | 30 |
| William Craig, | 50 | John Fleece, jun. | 20 |
| James Harlan, | 10 | Duff Green, | 20 |
| James Barbour, | 50 | Benjamin H. Perkins, | 50 |
| Joshua Barbee, | 100 | David Bell, | 50 |
| John B. Camden, | 10 | William Aiken, | 50 |
| Jer. Chamberlain, | 50 | | |

\$970

Probable amount of expenses the ensuing year.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| For salary of teacher and assistant teacher, including board | - | - | 1,600 |
| Amount which it is supposed will be required to support indigent pupils | - | - | 1,500 |
| Rent of house and ground | - | - | 200 |
| Incidental expenses, fuel, stationery, &c. | - | - | 100 |
| | | | <hr/> \$ 3,400 00 |
| Deduct, for probable amount which will be received from the treasury, for the support of indigent pupils | - | - | 1,500 |
| Probable amount which will be received from pupils who will pay | - | - | 600 |
| | | | <hr/> \$2,100 00 |
| | | | <hr/> 1,300 00 |
| Present amount of funds on hand | - | - | 2,025 70 |
| One third of subscriptions, which will fall due the 1st of January, 1824 | - | - | 323 33 |
| | | | <hr/> \$2,349 03 |

Whereupon Mr. M'Afee moved the following resolution, to wit:

Resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky,
That the report of the Trustees of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and the accompanying documents, be referred to a joint committee of four from the Senate, and eight from the House of Representatives, with power to report by bill or otherwise.

The rule being dispensed with, it was taken up and adopted.

Ordered, That Mr. M'Afee inform the House of Representatives thereof, and request their concurrence.

Messrs. M'Afee, Roper, Barbee, and Marshall were appointed a committee on the part of the Senate, pursuant to said resolution.

HARTFORD, Sept. 26th, 1825.

To the Directors of the Kentucky Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

GENTLEMEN: Mr. John A. Jacobs being on the eve of his departure for Kentucky, I will candidly express my opinion of his qualifications. He came to us some fifteen months ago, I may say, as a gentleman of excellent talents, exemplary character, and liberal education, but wholly unacquainted with the art of instructing the deaf and dumb; now, he leaves us well stored with the knowledge of our language of signs, and well initiated in all the secrets of our system: therefore, I don't hesitate to recommend him to you, gentlemen, as a suitable person to be at the head of your Institution; and I feel confident of his ability, not only to fill up the general outlines that we have pointed out to him, both in our public lectures and private lessons, but also to afford ample useful instruction in the various departments of knowledge to the deaf and dumb.

Now, gentlemen, allow me to tender to you, individually and collectively, my personal thanks for your generous exertions to promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of my unfortunate brothers beyond Alleghany Mountains, and to add my prayers for the prosperity of your Institution.

LAURENT CLERC.

A copy from the original on file.

D. G. COWAN.

 IN SENATE, *Wednesday, Nov. 23.*

The Speaker laid before the Senate a letter covering the annual report of the Chairman of the Committee of Superintendence for the Asylum for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb; which was read, as follows, to wit:

FRANKFORT, *Nov. 23, 1823.*

SIR: I have the honor to present to you, and through you to the honorable body over which you preside, the Annual Report of the Trustees of the Kentucky Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. The absence and professional engagements of the Secretary of the Board, put it out of their power to obtain earlier the statement of receipts and disbursements. I hope this will be accepted as our apology for the delay in presenting it to the General Assembly.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

D. G. COWAN,

Chairman Committee of Superintendence.

Hon. ROBERT B. M'AFFEE,

Lieut. Governor, and Speaker of the Senate.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Report of the Trustees of the Kentucky Institution for the Tuition of the Deaf and Dumb, respectfully shows: That, during the past year, the Institution has continued prosperous, and that the progress of the pupils in acquiring knowledge, has been such as to be highly gratifying, not only to those under whose immediate care they are placed, but also, it is believed, to all others who have visited the Asylum, and felt an interest in its prosperity. The pupils have been remarkably healthy. Good order has been observed; and, although most of the students are at a distance from their nearest relatives, there probably is not in the country a more happy family.

At the close of the last session of the year 1824, the number of pupils was twenty-six; at the close of the same session of 1825, the number was twenty-nine; and, from information received, many more may be expected during the present year.

Experience has fully satisfied your Trustees, that the time allowed by law for the instruction of indigent mutes, is too short to give them as extensive a knowledge of our language as is desirable. In the American Asylum at Hartford, where, from the experience and number of the teachers, the pupils enjoy equal, if not superior, advantages over any other institution in the United States, the time of instruction required is four or five years. We would, therefore, respectfully suggest, for the consideration of the General Assembly, whether it will not be expedient to leave it discretionary with the Trustees to continue indigent pupils one year longer than the law at present requires, so that no pupil may leave the Asylum without deriving substantial benefit from his residence there. Without this, the money expended by the State in his education will be only so much thrown away. We beg leave to call your attention to the following extracts from the eighth Annual Report of the American Asylum, on this subject:

"The friends of the deaf and dumb demand impossibilities of them, and those who are entrusted with their education, if they expect that these infants in knowledge, although they may be men in stature, and laboring under the peculiar embarrassments of their situation, &c. and knowing nothing of the slow, patient, and gradual process which must of necessity be employed in the instruction of those who are excluded from the common sources of improvement, that children who are in possession of all their faculties enjoy, consider two or three years spent at the Asylum as quite sufficient to advance a pupil from his alphabet, of which, at his admission, he is ignorant, to a correct knowledge of the English language, so that he may both read it with understanding, and write it with accuracy; to an acquaintance with moral and religious truth; to the use of figures, and to the outlines of geography. From this cause, and from the indigent circumstances in which many of the deaf and dumb are placed, they are often removed from the Asylum at the expiration of the third, or even second year."

With regard to the length of time necessary for the continuance of a pupil at the Asylum, there is another circumstance deemed worthy the attention of the General Assembly, which is, that, under the present law, the parents and guardians of indigent pupils have claimed, and, in some instances, exercised, the right to take them away whenever they might choose to do so, for the benefit of their labor. Whenever the pupil is taken from the Asylum without an education, his time there has been lost to himself, and the money of the State has been spent in vain. We would, therefore, respectfully suggest the passage of some enactment, whereby the Trustees will have power, in future, to retain such pupil for the time allowed by law.

Your Trustees feel well assured of the benevolent sentiments which brought this Institution into existence, and which, from time to time, have nourished and sustained it; but we are in duty bound to say, that there is one great inconvenience under which it has labored, to wit, the want of suitable buildings. The sum heretofore granted by the Legislature, was deemed quite insufficient to undertake the purchase of a proper site, and erecting such houses as were required, without assurances of further aid. We, therefore, through our representatives, made application to the Congress of the United States for a donation. A similar application from the Eastern section of the Union had been made to Congress with success. Many obstacles have hitherto opposed a final decision on our petition, notwithstanding the exertions of Major Moore, the immediate Representative from this district, and the other members from our State. So soon as our petition was presented to Congress, the States of New York and Pennsylvania, and other parts of the Union who have Deaf and Dumb Institutions, made known their determination to oppose us, unless similar endowments were asked at the same time for *their* Institutions. This appeared somewhat unreasonable, as Congress had already endowed one Institution, in which, from its local situation, they might have participated. The final result of our petition has, therefore, from different causes, been unavoidably delayed, though, from the reasonableness of our request, we still have strong hopes of success. In the mean time, the house at present occupied, although the most convenient we can procure, is much too small, and by no means well adapted to answer our purpose, nor do we know with certainty how long we may obtain it on rent, the owner, as we are informed, being disposed to sell rather than rent. Under these circumstances, a sense of duty, and the welfare of those placed under our care, induces us to renew our application to the General Assembly for such a donation as will enable us to purchase a proper site and erect buildings, and thus place the Institution on a respectable and permanent footing; and should our application to the Congress of the United States meet with merited success, the fund thereby obtained can be, in future, applied to the support of indigent pupils, or in refunding the amount expended by the State, as the General Assembly may hereafter direct. Situated as we are, should

there be as many applicants for instruction as we expect, from our own or any of the adjoining States, we shall be compelled to reject them.

We would respectfully suggest to the consideration of the General Assembly, whether a direct application from your honorable body would not give weight to our application to Congress. In our last report, we mentioned the plan adopted to obtain another well qualified instructor. We are happy to say, that Mr. Jacobs, the gentleman sent to Hartford, has returned, bringing with him, from Mr. Gallaudet, the Principal of the American Asylum, such evidences of his qualifications, as leave no doubt that his acquirements in the science of teaching the Deaf and Dumb, are of the first order. Our Institution has attracted the attention of many citizens of the neighboring States; and, perhaps, the whole valley of the Mississippi is looking to the Kentucky Asylum for instruction of their Deaf and Dumb. The benevolent feelings which gave birth to this humane Institution, have, we are fully assured, met with correspondent sentiments, and the approbation of the people generally. The Trustees have had many difficulties to encounter, but their labors have been crowned with success, and that is an ample reward. They rely with confidence on the support of the General Assembly to enable them to carry on this "good work."

It is in contemplation to send to Frankfort some of the pupils most advanced, before the adjournment of the General Assembly, in order that your honorable body may have an opportunity of seeing the progress they have made. A list of the pupils, including those who pay all charges, and those are supported by the bounty of the State, and also such statements as are necessary to show the expenditures and present state of the funds, will be herewith presented. The Trustees acknowledge with gratitude the liberal donations made to the Asylum by several citizens of New Orleans, at the solicitation of the Rev. Samuel K. Nelson.

By order of the Board.

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| D. G. COWAN, J. BARBOUR, S. K. NELSON, B. H. PERKINS, | } | Committee. |
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November 3d, 1825.

